

**MINUTES OF**  
**BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**August 25, 2014**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on August 25, 2014 with all three Commissioners present. Chairman Krehbiel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Hague continues to receive good reviews from citizens on the hot in-place recycling that was used to resurface some roads.
2. After an absence of a couple of months, there is again a camp host at West Park.
3. Jim Meier reported that patching work has begun on Halstead Road south of Halstead. Because of the unusual way the road has cracked, the patching is a time consuming process.
4. The seal coat to be applied on NE 60<sup>th</sup> has been delayed because of the availability of the machine the contractor uses to apply it. It will hopefully be completed some time in September.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. A joint City-County meeting will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Law Enforcement Training Room.
2. There will be an LEPC meeting held on October 8 at 9:00 a.m.
3. The Commission will meet for a short meeting on October 13, Columbus Day, and then attend open enrollment meetings for insurance for county employees. Other than the Commission meeting, the Courthouse will be closed to the public in observance of Columbus Day.
4. A meeting to discuss metal thefts will be held at the Sedgwick County Extension Office on August 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Minutes of the August 18, 2014 Commission meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Westfall, seconded by Commissioner Hague. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. John gave the Commissioners a copy of the agenda for the joint City-County meeting.
2. John will attend a meeting called by Sedgwick County on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Larsen Community Center in Mount Hope to discuss a bridge closing on Burmac Road in Sedgwick County. The bridge will be closed for replacement and a detour will be designated which could affect Harvey County maintained roads.
3. Jim Meier, Road and Bridge Superintendent; Keith Ayotte and Steve Frank, MKEC Engineers; and John Waltner met at the site of the culvert located on Prairie Creek Road, that was discussed by Lake Township representatives at last week's Commission meeting. Jim will give the detail of the meeting during his departmental report.

4. The meeting to be held at Camp Hawk for the demonstration of the magnet for road graders was tentatively scheduled for September 25. However the date conflicts with the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet, so the demonstration will be rescheduled.
5. John updated the Commissioners on the progress of the 800 Mhz radio project. One of the issues for the project has been the identification of sites for towers. It appears that one tower will have to be built north of Newton. A property owner has been contacted and is receptive to selling some land for a tower to be built there. A tower company is scheduled to come and look at the property next week. It also appears that the County will be able to lease some space on the Hutchinson Community College tower which will enable radio coverage for the western part of the County.
6. Thirteen applications have been received for the position of Parks Director. John proposed that interviews with three of the applicants be conducted on Tuesday, September 2 following the Commission meeting. John will schedule the interviews.
7. Kass Miller reported that Parks staff is getting ready for the upcoming Labor Day Weekend. Work is being done to smooth out some of the roads in the Parks and they are also working on some of the camping pads. Commissioner Hague received a complaint about 12<sup>th</sup> Street Road east of East Lake Road to the entrance to the Park. A citizen reported that it is very rough. That stretch of road is county maintained.
8. Sheriff T. Walton reported that the past week was very active for the Sheriff's Department.
9. Jim Meier reviewed a quote from Bridges Inc. to repair the bridge on NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street near West Park for the sum of \$45,000. The bridge will be repaired in accordance with drawings and sketches provided by MKEC Engineering. The work could begin in approximately two weeks if the proposal is accepted. A proposal for the repair was also received from Dondlinger Construction for the amount of \$68,000. King Construction declined was asked to submit a quote but they declined because of a busy workload. Commissioner Westfall made a motion to approve the proposal submitted by Bridges Inc. to repair what is known as the "NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge" under an urgent repair request since the Commission requested the Road and Bridge Superintendent to secure oral or written bids from three companies at the direction of MKEC Engineering. He moved that the County purchasing policy be waived at the suggestion of County Administrator, John Waltner, based upon the fact that we received no offer from King Construction and a higher proposal from Dondlinger Construction in the amount of \$68,000, that the proposal from Bridges Inc. of \$45,000 be accepted and approved and move forward with the repair. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
10. Jim reported on the meeting with MKEC Engineers at the culvert on S Prairie Lake Road that was brought to the attention of the Commission at last week's meeting. It is still not yet determined whether there is a structure there, but it was determined that there was nowhere for the water on the east side of the road to drain. MKEC is going to check some LIDAR maps to see if it would be of any value for the County to place or replace, as the case may be, a structure there. There would have to be a way to route the water on downstream and that could be the responsibility of the landowner.
11. Anthony reported that the asbestos abatement process in the Courthouse continues. The offices of Planning and Zoning, Domestic Violence, GIS Mapping, Senior Services and

Transportation, and Driver's License will be abated next weekend. Some damage to furniture and paint was reported after last weekend's work. Beginning this week, there will be a construction meeting held every Tuesday so these types of issues will be discussed there.

12. Willis Heck, Representative to the Highway 50 Association, gave an update on the Bridges Task Force meeting that he attended on August 20. It was the last meeting for that group. He provided maps to the Commissioners which identified "Corridors of Significance" across the State of Kansas. These corridors are used in the hauling of freight in and through the state. Also indicated on the map were rail connections for freight. The current transportation plan, T-Works, includes some improvements for some of these significant corridors. We are in the fourth year of the ten-year T-Works plan. The next highway plan will likely begin in 2016 and the results of the freight studies will be a major factor in that next plan. KDOT would like to have a series of meetings around the concept of significant trans load places in the state. Willis volunteered to be a participant on that committee because he feels that it is important to have a voice on the committee because of the development of the Logistics Park. Willis has presented a plan to KDOT to focus on turning Highway 50 into a four-lane from Emporia to Newton.
13. Byron Warta reported that Hangar W at the airport is still not completed. The ABI building is nearing completion on all the electrical and plumbing. The project is on schedule if not ahead of schedule. He reported that a representative from the EDC said that ABI has hired a manager and a chief engineer.

Byron spent last Thursday and Friday at a meeting of the Kansas Water Authority. The budget for the KWA has been increased for 2015 because there are some earthen dams that are 85 years old and have never been inspected. There is also money to study and collect information on the problem of sedimentation in state and county lakes and some ponds. The governor's fifty year water plan was also discussed. Byron proposed that the Commission be a catalyst to propose a time in September that the KWA could provide an update on the fifty year plan to County Commissioners, REAP Representatives, and any other organizations that would need to be involved. There is still time to have a voice in the proposed plan. Another key item discussed at the KWA meeting was a proposed Aquaduct in northeast Kansas. This is a proposal to take water out of the Missouri River overflow and direct it to a reservoir to be built. The water would then be taken by canal or pipe to another reservoir near Ness City. The canal alone would cost 12 billion, not including land acquisition, the cost of building the lakes, etc. If the water is taken by pipe it is estimated to cost 26 billion, not including land acquisition or the cost of building the lakes. All states above and below would have to be in agreement.

Byron also reported that there was a court decision made back east that opens the door for EPA to be given authority over all bodies of water, including lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and even runoff water from lawns. There is significant concern that the EPA will do this with Presidential Executive Order, bypassing congress. The Water Authority is encouraging everyone to write letters to their state and federal

representatives encouraging them to take a long hard look at what is going on. The EPA could require all kinds of permits and red tape which could directly affect the farming industry.

**CITIZENS FORUM:**

There were no items presented during Citizens Forum.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$270,784.02 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Westfall. Motion passed unanimously.

At 10:25 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 35 minutes to discuss attorney client privilege and possible litigation. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also in attendance for the meeting were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, Joyce Truskett, Counselor Greg Nye, Weldon Epp, Vern Koch, Bill Hamm, and Ed Stahl. Tom Cowan joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m. At 10:55 a.m., Weldon Epp, Tom Cowan, Vern Koch, Bill Hamm, and Ed Stahl left the session. Executive session ended at 11:00 a.m. with no action being taken.

John reminded the Commissioners that the interviews for the position of the Parks Director position will be held following the Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 2.

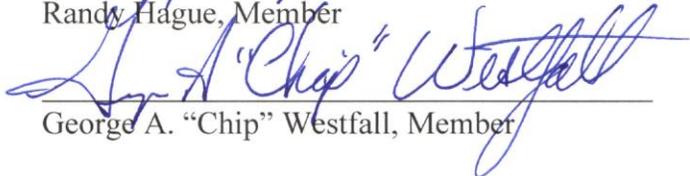
Anthony discussed the findings of the 2013 audit and asked the Commissioners how they wanted to proceed with the recommendations from the auditor. The Commissioners agreed to follow the recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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Ron Krehbiel, Chairperson

  
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Randy Hague, Member

  
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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Joyce Truskett, County Clerk

